



BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



Medical Officer's
Annual Report.

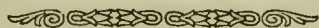


1920.

BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



Medical Officer's Annual Report.



March, 1921.

Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 1920, for the Borough of Basingstoke, the contents and arrangements of which are in the order required by the Ministry of Health and set out in their Memorandum issued to Medical Officers of Health throughout the Country.

Population.

The Population of the Borough according to the census returns of 1911, was 11,540, the population is now estimated to be 13,227.

Physical Features of the District.

Basingstoke is situate 300 feet above sea level, and occupies the slopes facing North and South and the intervening valley of the River Loddon. It has chiefly a subsoil of chalk, with narrow strata of clay in some places. The climate is bracing, the surrounding country is under cultivation, and with the exception of downlands in the South is well wooded.

Social Conditions and Occupation of Inhabitants.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Mercantile, Artisan (Engineering, Building and Textile trades), and Labouring, there is no particular occupation detrimental to health.

The number of persons in receipt of out-door Poor Law Relief for the year 1920, were Men 19, Women 47, Children 63, total 129. Amount paid in respect of same, £1011 14s. 10½d., as compared with 127 persons and £822 3s. 0d. paid in 1919.

Medical Relief only, for the year ending 1920, Men 2, Child 1, total 3. Amount spent in Medical Relief only, £5 5s. 2½d., as compared with 20 persons and £1 7s. 7d. paid in 1919.

The Cottage Hospital, with accommodation and beds for 27 patients, maintained by voluntary subscriptions, treated during the year 252 patients. There were nine deaths.

Free treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculous Diseases under the direction of Dr. Lyster, County Medical Officer of Health, is given at the C.C. Dispensary, 22, London Street.

Venereal Diseases.

The Hampshire County Council have made arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases at several centres. If these facilities are used to the fullest extent there is every reason to believe that such diseases could be considerably reduced with enormous benefit to the public health. It is shortly intended to establish a clinic in Basingstoke.

Vital Statistics.

There were 138 deaths, giving a death rate of 10.4 per thousand (population 13,227), as against 10.53 in 1919. The number of Infants dying under one year was 21, as against 13 in 1919.

The number of births was 311 (Males 169, Females 142), as against 229 in 1919, giving a birth rate of 23.5.

There were 18 illegitimate births (Males 7, Females 11), as against 15 in 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
All causes	71	67
Measles	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	3
Cancer, malignant disease	8	10
Rheumatic Fever	2	0
Organic Heart Disease	10	12
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	3
Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	0	2
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	0
Nephritis and Brights Disease	4	0
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	0	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	9	3
Violence, apart from Suicide	1	1
Suicide	2	0
Other defined diseases	16	22

The following cases were notified during the year :

Tuberculosis—Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as against Three in 1919.

Scarlet Fever—15 cases, as against 11 in 1919.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—one case, both eyes, recovery, as against one case in 1919.

One case of Diphtheria.

One case of Eucephalitis Lethargica.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained from a well sunk at a site at West Ham, and is amply sufficient for all requirements. The yearly report on the chemical and bacteriological analyses of the water is very satisfactory, and states it to be a hard but pure supply. From a recent examination of the water by Public Analyst, it was found to be most satisfactory for domestic purposes, both from a Chemical and Bacteriological standpoint.

Rivers and Streams.

No River or Stream is being polluted. The condition of the Loddon leaves much to be desired, both from the point of view of safety and hygiene, the practice of the occupiers of houses adjacent thereto of throwing tins and rubbish of all kinds into the stream still continues in spite of the warnings and notices sent out by the Council with a view to prevention, the result of such a condition of things during the summer months being, besides almost immediately undoing the work of cleansing undertaken by the Council, bad smells and unsightly accumulations of rubbish of all kinds which cannot be otherwise than a menace and danger to the health of the children in the neighbourhood.

I would suggest that the Council undertake the piping-in of certain sections year by year at their discretion, so that in the course of four or five years the whole could be properly covered in, or otherwise suitably channelled, and an eyesore and possible danger be removed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage is carried by pipe drains to the Sewage Pumping Station, whence it is pumped on to the Sewage Farm where it is dealt with by broad irrigation on an area of 79a. 3r. 37p. The land is eminently suited for the purpose, and the acreage now available will meet the requirements of the Town for many years.

Closet Accommodation.

There are still some localities within the Borough at present too far away to be connected up to the water carriage sewerage system. There are 34 houses with pail closets, these being at Southlea and Worting bottom, 2 houses in Kingsclere Road have been converted into water closets.

There are 70 houses draining into cesspools, these being at Sherborne Road, Kempshott Village and Winklebury, the remaining 2715 houses are water closets drained to the main water carriage system.

Scavenging.

The Refuse of the Town is being satisfactorily dealt with, some 2000 tons being disposed of annually by the Destructor. Removal of House Refuse is by public scavenger, who collects twice weekly.

The Bye-Laws relating to the provision of proper galvanized receptacles for ashes and refuse is being slowly complied with, but now the Committee appointed for that purpose have decided upon a standard bin for cottages, and a number kept in stock so that in case of noncompliance with notice, the Council will provide same themselves and recover the costs, so that this year should see them in more general use.

Food.

The Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds were regularly inspected.

Bakehouses were regularly inspected and found to be well kept and limewashed.

Slaughter Houses.—These were regularly inspected and well kept.

Number of Slaughter Houses—

	In 1914.	In Jan. 1920.	In Dec. 1920.
Registered	4	4	3
Licensed	5	5	5
	—	—	—
Total	9	9	8

Samples of Food taken under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1920, in the Borough by the C.C. Inspector.

Butter 5, and found to be genuine. Milk 19, of which 3 were adulterated.

- (1) Deficient in Milk Fat 27%
- (2) Excess Water 3.8%
- (3) Slightly deficient in Fat 1.7% excess water.

The following was seized and destroyed by the Sanitary Inspector as unfit for the food of man :—

Pork	80 pounds
Haddock	28 "
Kippers	28 "
Bacon	50 "
Tinned Corned Beef	43 "
„ Tomatoes	26 "
„ Salmon	4 "
„ Milk	12 "
Lemons	300 "
Potatoes	3½ cwts.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1918.

The Council not having adopted the Registration of Births Act at the time it came into operation, the Order is being administered by the County Council as the Local Authority in this area.

Isolation Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for 42 patients in three isolated blocks, each consisting of two wards with lavatories and kitchen. The largest block can give beds for 26 cases, usually kept for Scarlet Fever cases. The two smaller blocks can accommodate 8 cases in each block. The administration block has ample accommodation for the nursing staff in normal times.

The number of cases admitted for the year was 37, as against 21 in 1919, 17 cases from the Urban District and 20 cases from the Rural District.

Analysis of Cases :	
Urban District—Scarlet Fever	15
Diphtheria	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Rural District—Scarlet Fever	14
Diphtheria	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	5

There were 3 deaths—Urban 1, Scarlet Fever.
 1, Encephalitis Lethargica.
 Rural 1, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Housing.

The Housing accommodation for people of the working classes in the Borough is insufficient. The number of new houses erected in 1920 was 40. The average increase in the population annually before the war being 160 persons. The number of dwelling-houses in the district is 2819.

The number of dwelling houses suitable for people of the working classes is 2382.

The average number of working class houses built annually during the five years before the war was 29.

It was found on making house to house enquiry in the town West of Church Street, and in other parts of the town from the Sugar Card records, that a shortage of houses existed which is estimated to be 242. To meet the need the Council have prepared a scheme for the erection of 210 houses, and purchased land of nearly 20 acres in extent, and up to the present some 40 houses are now ready for occupation.

It will be seen from the following list that many of the persons in apartments are married couples—

153	2 persons
52	3 „
25	4 „
9	5 „
1	7 „
2	8 „
242	
In apartments	616 persons
17 Unfit houses	83 „
	699

The overcrowding occurs chiefly in those houses with two or three bedrooms. It is not intended in the present condition of things to take any action in the matter.

There were 445 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, of which 360 were dealt with under notices served upon owners by the Sanitary Inspector, who is the authorised Officer under the Acts, for the details of defects found and work done I must refer you to appended Report.

The defects more generally met with in working class dwellings are dampness, defective floors and roofs, dirty walls and ceilings, defective grates, absence of wash-house accommodation, inside sinks, more than one house using one tap generally situate in yard outside, want of proper food store with light and ventilation, back yards and passages not properly paved and drained, woodwork requiring to be repainted.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The growth of the work done at the Infant Welfare Centre is satisfactory, as is shown by the attendance of Mothers and children under five years of age, these having grown from 2761 in 1919, to 4301 in 1920.

The same two Nurses are in attendance, and they, acting as health visitors, follow the case with great interest.

The privilege of obtaining dried Milk at a reduced cost is very greatly appreciated by the Mothers, and the sales have grown accordingly.

Five voluntary helpers are also in attendance each week to assist in the various departments of the work.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. REES-THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.

Inspector of Nuisances Report.

Town Hall, Basingstoke,
March, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report of work done in this department for the year ending December, 1920.

There are 8 Slaughter Houses on the Register, 5 Licensed and 3 Registered Slaughter Houses. These have been regularly inspected, the floors are thoroughly cleansed after slaughtering, and all offal promptly removed from the premises, the Bye-Laws regulating Slaughter Houses have been generally well observed.

There are 19 Milk Vendors, Dairymen and Cow Keepers on the Register. Their premises were periodically inspected, and were found to be well and cleanly kept.

There are 20 Bakehouses on the Register. These have been periodically visited, and were generally found to be kept in a cleanly state.

The Common Lodging House, with lodging accommodation for 58 persons, has been regularly visited, the Bye-Laws regulating Common Lodging Houses have been well observed by the Keeper. The premises are Limewashed yearly, and the place is kept in a cleanly state, and generally well conducted.

There are 27 Factories and 106 Workshops on the Register. Two Clothing Establishments have sent in four lists of outworkers with a total of 180 persons. These have been visited periodically, and their premises, with one or two exceptions, were found to be kept in a wholesome condition.

445 Houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts. 360 Houses have been dealt with under notice when defects were remedied as shewn in the following summary :—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Inspections and Re-visits	...	2807
Complaints	...	36
Notices—Informal	...	379
Do. Statutory	...	52
Nuisances abated	...	85
Rooms coloured	...	296
Ceilings whitened	...	934
Rooms papered	...	566
Walls and ceilings cemented or plastered		171
Roofs repaired	...	143
Floors repaired	...	137
Woodwork re-painted	...	31
Windows repaired	...	96
New doors or repaired	...	29
Yards paved or repaired	...	36
W.C.'s rebuilt or repaired	...	14
Flushing apparatus	...	15
Inspection covers to drains	...	4
Smoke test applied to drains	...	2
New or partly new drains	...	5
W.C. Pans	...	17
New seat or riser	...	11
Drains cleared of obstruction	...	39
Offensive deposits removed	...	9
New traps	...	11
Grates repaired	...	51
Guttering and spouting	...	42
Copper repaired	...	32
Damp courses	...	5
Chimney repaired	...	12
Staircase treads and risers	...	10
Lots of bedding disinfected	...	21
Houses disinfected after infectious disease		21

I am again pleased to report that my duties have been carried out in an amiable and friendly manner as far as possible. It has not been necessary to resort to litigation, but the delay in carrying out the directions of the Health Committee has rendered necessary the serving of Statutory Notices in some cases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. DAVIES,

Inspector of Nuisances.